Obituary

Professor Emeritus

Dr. KOIZUMI, Naokazu (1921–2007)

Dr. Naokazu Koizumi, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University, passed away in Yokohama on July 4, 2007.

Dr. Koizumi was born in Kyoto on July 12, 1921. He graduated from Kyoto Imperial University with a major in Chemistry in 1945. In 1946, he joined Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University, and started his studies on the dielectric properties of materials under the supervision of Professor Rempei Gotoh. In 1953, he was appointed to an Associate Professor of ICR. In 1958, he was awarded a Ph D (Doctor of Science) for his studies on the dielectric properties of polar liquids in the microwave region. In 1959, he had an opportunity to spend for two years at Purdue University, U.S.A., where he worked on the physical properties of organotin compounds and metal carbonyls in co-operation with Professor W. F. Edgell.

In 1961, Dr. Koizumi was promoted to full professorship, in charge of the overall direction of the Laboratory of Dielectrics. He conducted extensive research on the development of dielectric spectroscopy and the dielectric behaviour of a variety of materials. He designed and constructed various kinds of research instrument for dielectric measurements such as waveguide and coaxial equipment in a microwave region and a milli-hertz bridge circuit for the very low frequency region. From his experiments with these instruments over a very wide range of frequency, he elucidated a variety of dielectric behaviour of pure liquids, solutions, solid polymers, and colloidal dispersions. He especially focused on hydrogen-bonded polar liquids and discussed the liquid structure from their dielectric properties. Moreover, he also performed systematic studies on the dielectric and ferroelectric properties of fluorocarbon polymers, which gave us great insight into the electric polarization of the polymers and participated in their applications to electric and audio devices.

His effort to extend the range of dielectric measurement to both lower and higher frequencies was rewarded by important results and contributed to the recent development of broadband dielectric spectroscopy. He had a strict attitude toward accuracy of measurement data and expected his students to do so, thereby his experimental data having been trusted by many related researchers.

Dr. Koizumi gave lectures on advances in dielectric investigations into electrical properties of matter at the Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, and he was also in charge of supervising the dissertation work of many graduate students. He also gave lectures on selected topics as well as physical chemistry as a visiting professor at several different universities.

Dr. Koizumi is respected by his students and loved by his colleagues for his amicable, sincere and thoughtful personality. In 1996, the Government made public recognition of his achievements by the Third Class of the Order of the Rising Sun.